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Message Text

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22-12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 IO-10 SNM-02 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01

INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-04 TRSE-00 /125 W
---------- 016477
R 240420Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 746
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
CINCPAC HI
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK UNN
ZMCONSUL CHIANG MAI UNN
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU UNN
AMCONSUL MANDALAY UNN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW UNN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI UNN
USLO PEKING UNN
AMCONSUL UDORN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 3622

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR BM
SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #49

1. VISIT OF PRC TRADE MINISTER (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PRC EXTERNAL TRADE MINISTER LI CHI AND A FIVE MAN DELEGATION
ARRIVED RANGOON DECEMBER 22 AND WERE MET AT THE AIRPORT BY GUB
TRADE MINISTER SAN WIN AND MFA OFFICIALS. THE VISIT OF THE PRC
TRADE MINISTER MAY REPRESENT A FOLLOW UP TO THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS
HELD IN CHINA DURING THE TOUR OF THE GUB INDUSTRY MISSION AND NE
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WIN'S STATE VISIT LAST MONTH. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR, HOWEVER, IF THE

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PRC IS PREPARED TO EXTEND NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BURMA OR IS DISCUSSING WAYS IN WHICH THE REMAINING BALANCE OF ITS 1961 LOAN (ESTIMATED AT ABOUT $10 MILLION) MAY BE EXPENDED. PRESIDENT NE WIN RECEIVED LI CHIANG DECEMBER 23, THE DAY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, AN EVENT THAT WILL CERTAINLY BE CONTRASTED WITH HIS FAILURE TO RECEIVE THE CPSU DELEGATION (SEE NEXT ITEM) BY OBSERVERS OF SINO-SOVIET COMPETITION IN BURMA.

2. CPSU DELEGATION DEPARTS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PARTY DELEGATION FROM COMMUNIST PARTY OF SOVIET UNION LEFT BURMA DECEMBER 20 ON CONCLUSION OF 10 DAY VISIT (WEEKA 48, ITEM 3 AND WEEKA 47, ITEM 13). GUB APPARENTLY PLAYED VISIT UP AS DELEGATION EXTENSIVELY TOURED BURMA AND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED. DELEGATION MET WITH MANY SENIOR OFFICIALS, BUT NOT PRESIDENT NE WIN. RUSSIANS, ON OTHER HAND, MAY HAVE PLAYED VISIT DOWN. LEADER OF SOVIET DELEGATION IVAN BODYUL, WAS REPORTEDLY RELATIVELY MINOR CPSU FIGURE FROM MOLDAVIA WHO WAS RETURNING VISIT TO USSR EARLIER BY BSPP JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY U THAUNG KYI, WHO RANKS AS NUMBER THREE MAN IN BSPP. SPECULATION IS THAT BURMESE PLAYED VISIT UP TO REASSURE USSR THAT PRESIDENT NE WIN'S CHINA VISIT WOULD NOT AFFECT GUB/USSR RELATIONS, WHILE RUSSIANS PLAYED VISIT DOWN AS WAY OF EXPRESSING DISPLEASURE ON SAME SUBJECT.

3. VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION FORMED (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

CULMINATING THREE YEAR ORGANIZATION PROCESS, FIRST MEETING OF WAR VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION (WVO) TOOK PLACE IN RANGOON DECEMBER 17-19. ORGANIZATION WHICH CLAIMS MEMBERSHIP OF 43,000 IS EVIDENTLY DESIGNED TO BE MASS ORGANIZATION SUBJECT TO DIRECTION OF BSPP; HOWEVER, SOME CONCERN WAS EVIDENT THAT MEMBERSHIP MAY BE MORE INTERESTED IN BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES TRADITIONAL TO VETERAN'S ORGANIZATIONS. BSPP SECRETARY GENERAL, GENERAL SAN YU, IN KEYNOTE OPENING ADDRESS, EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT WVO WOULD FULLY ACCEPT AND FOLLOW LEADERSHIP OF BSPP AND WARNED, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THAT WVO "MUST NOT BECOME TOOL OF GROUP OF PEOPLE AND NOT LOOK FOR PRIVILEGES BY MAKING USE OF ORGANIZATION."

4. OIL DEVELOPMENTS (CONFIDENTIAL)

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JAPANESE-OWNED AODC WHICH IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON TWO WELLS OFF THE ARAKAN COAST HAS RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED BOTH OIL AND GAS SHOWS ON THE SOUTHERNMOST WELL IN BLOCK A-4. GAS WAS "WET",I.E., CONTAINED MORE COMPLICATED HYDROCARBONS (C-2) THAN METHANE, BUT SHOWED ONLY IN CHROMATOGRAPH TESTING, I.E. IN TRACE AMOUNTS. THE OIL, ALSO IN TRACE AMOUNTS, SHOWED AS YELLOW FLOURESCENCE ON WELL RETURNS, AND IN SUBSEQUENT TESTING AS STAIN - THERE WAS NO FREE OIL. JAPANESE HAD EARLIER THROUGH CHROMATOGRAPH TESTING FOUND TRACES OF BOTH OIL

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AND GAS IN THEIR NORTHERN WELL IN BLOCK A-3; ONE OF THESE SHOWS APPARENTLY IN SECTION OF "TIGHT" SAND WHICH AODC WILL TEST THIS WEEK. WHILE THESE SIGNS ARE ENCOURAGING, AODC HAS YET TO DISCOVER TWO OTHER ESSENTIALS FOR CREATION OF AN OIL FIELD; RESERVOIR ROCK AND TRAP. IF TESTS ON NORTHERNMOST WELL UNPROMISING, WELL WILL BE ABANDONED. SOUTHERN WELL WILL BE DRILLED ABOUT 1,000 FEET MORE TO DEPTH OF 8,000 FEET.

5. NARCOTICS : POLICE ACTIONS (UNCLASSIFIED)

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS NOTE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST DRUG VIOLATORS DURING THE PAST WEEK. ONE PERSON ARRESTED FOR TRANS-PORTING .144 LBS OF HEROIN VIA LOCAL TRAINS. A MOULMEIN TRAFFICKER WAS SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS FOR POSSESSION .27 LBS OF MARIJUANA. THE CONTINUING OPERATION TO DESTROY MARIJUANA CROPS RESULTED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF 10,685 MARIJUANA PLANTS IN THE PEGU YOMA AREA IN LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER. PRESS ALSO NOTES THAT U SHWE THAN, WHO WAS RECENTLY CONFIRMED IN HIS POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PROPLE'S POLICE FORCE (HE HAD BEEN ACTING DG FOR SOME TIME), TOURED THE CHIN STATE TO DISCUSS SUPPRESSION OF OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN THAT AREA.

6. END OF THE SPECTRUM (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

INFORMATION MINISTER U LWIN HAS ABOLISHED SPECTRUM, THE TEPID READERS' DIGEST-STYLE MAGAZINE (CIRC. 8,000) AFTER GUB OFFICIALS COMPLAINED ABOUT A PRO-INDIRA GANDI (AND ANTI-PRC) ARTICLE AT A TIME WHEN PRESIDENT NE WIN WAS VISITING PEKING. U LWIN REPORTEDLY SAW THE DECEMBER ISSUE IN GALLEY AND ABOLISHED IT ON THE SPOT, CALLING IT "WORTHLESS". COMMENT: FOR ONCE, U LWIN'S JUDGEMENT WAS PROBABLY VALID.
OSBORN

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